

# TRANSPORTATION STATISTICS

**B E Y O N D**  

---

**ISTEA**

critical g a p s and  
strategic responses

#### About the Bureau of Transportation Statistics

The Bureau of Transportation Statistics (BTS) was established by the Intermodal Surface Transportation Efficiency Act (ISTEA) of 1991. As the newest operating administration of the U.S. Department of Transportation, the BTS mission is to compile, analyze, and make accessible information about the nation's transportation systems; collect information on intermodal transportation and other areas as needed; and enhance the quality and effectiveness of the Department's programs through research, the development of guidelines, and the promotion of improvements in data acquisition and use.

Bureau of Transportation Statistics products are available from:

Customer Service

Bureau of Transportation Statistics

U.S. Department of Transportation

400 7<sup>th</sup> Street, SW, Room 3430

Washington, DC 20590

phone	202.366.DATA
fax	202.366.3640
email	orders@bts.gov
statistics by phone	800.853.1351
statistics by email	statistics@bts.gov
fax-on-demand	800.671.8012

All material contained in this report is in the public domain and may be used and reprinted without special permission; citation as to source is required.

Recommended citation: U.S. Department of Transportation, Bureau of Transportation Statistics, *Transportation Statistics Beyond ISTEA: Critical Gaps and Strategic Responses*, BTS98-A-01 (Washington, DC: January 1998).



**US Department of  
Transportation**

Rodney E. Slater  
*Secretary*

Mortimer L. Downey  
*Deputy Secretary*

**Bureau of  
Transportation  
Statistics**

T.R. Lakshmanan  
*Director*

Robert A. Knisely  
*Deputy Director*

Rolf R. Schmitt  
*Associate Director  
for Transportation  
Studies*

Philip N. Fulton  
*Associate Director  
for Statistical  
Programs  
and Services*

**Principal Authors**

Rolf R. Schmitt  
Wendell Fletcher  
Joanne Sedor

**Editor**

Marsha Fenn

**Reviewers**

Felix Ammah-Tagoe  
Audrey Buyrn  
Russell Capelle  
Ronald Duych  
John Fuller  
Xiaoli Han  
William Mallett  
Wende O'Neill  
Alan Pisarski  
Lisa Randall  
Basav Sen  
Bruce Spear  
Robert Zarnetske

**Other Contributors**

Lillian Chapman  
Selena Giesecke

**Cover Design**

Susan Hoffmeyer

**Layout and Production**

Gardner Smith  
*OmniDigital, Inc.*

## TABLE OF CONTENTS

---

Critical Gaps in Transportation Statistics .....	2
Flows of People, Goods, and Vehicles .....	2
The Transportation System .....	6
Economic Dimensions of Transportation .....	9
Transportation Safety .....	11
Transportation Energy Use .....	13
Transportation and the Environment .....	13
State and Local Perspectives .....	15
Changing Sources of Transportation Data .....	17
Strategic Responses .....	19
Understanding Transportation in a Globalized Economy .....	19
Partnerships for More Effective Information .....	19
Performance Indicators .....	21
The Bottom Line .....	21
 <i>Box</i>	
Box 1. Expanding the Role of the National Transportation Library .....	20
 <i>Tables</i>	
Table 1. Freight Transportation: Selected Data Needs .....	4
Table 2. Passenger Travel: Selected Data Needs .....	7
Table 3. Vehicles and Vehicle Use: Selected Data Needs .....	8
Table 4. Selected State and Local Data Needs .....	16